



ATLAS COMICS

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NO. 3
JULY 1967
43377 25c

THE BRUTE

TM

YOU ARE
DOOMED,
BRUTE!

NO ONE CAN
WITHSTAND THE
DEATH-GAZE
OF
DOOMSTALKER!

CAVEMAN vs CYBORG
IN
"LIVE OR LET DIE"



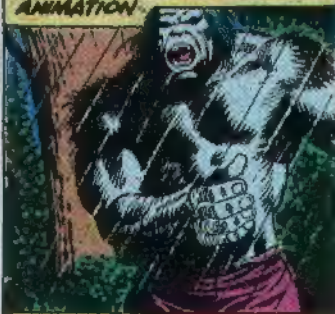
PABLO MARCO

AN UNSEASONABLY COLD LATE SPRING RAIN POUNDS THE THICK WOODS OF NORTHERN MINNESOTA--

--AND UPON THE BLUE-SKINNED FRAME OF A WEARY, BE-WILDERED THROWBACK FROM CENTURIES AGO THAT THE MODERN-DAY MEDIA HAS NAMED **THE BRUTE!!**



IN THE PERIOD OF A FEW SHORT DAYS SINCE HIS RESURRECTION*, FOLLOWING LONG SPENT IN A FROZEN STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION.



HE HAS NOT TAKEN OF FOOD--
--AND NOW, LIKE THAT OF ANY MAN, HIS STOMACH CRIES OUT FOR THE MOST BASIC OF LIFE'S STAPLES!

*SEE ISSUE #1--LARRY!

THEN, SUDDENLY, HIS NOSTRILS ARE FILLED WITH THE SCENT OF FRESH MEAT! HIS MOUTH FILLS WITH FLUID WHICH POURS THROUGH HIS HUNGER-STARVED LIPS--



--AND AS THE SCENT BECOMES STRONGER, LIKE MAN OR BEAST, HE REALIZES THE TIME HAS COME TO--



GRRROWRRR!

"LIVE OR LET DIE!"

DOES HE FEEL? DOES HE THINK? OR DOES HE ACT FROM PURE ANIMAL INSTINCT? AT THIS POINT IN HIS LIFE IT MATTERS NOT-- FOR WHEN LIFE ITSELF IS AT STAKE, THERE IS LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MAN AND BEAST. THERE IS ONLY A CONSTANT SAME-NESS-- THE WILL TO SURVIVE!

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THE BRUTE Volume 1, Number 3, 1975 is published bi-monthly by Atlas Comics. Executive offices and office of publication: 717 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N.Y. 10022. Subscriptions in U.S., Canada and possessions \$1.50 for six issues. Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices. * Copyright 1975 Seaboard Periodicals, Inc. All rights reserved. THE BRUTE is a trademark of Atlas Comics, a division of Seaboard Periodicals, Inc.



FOLLOWING CENTURIES OLD INSTINCT, THE BRUTE ATTACKS SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING-- IN THE SAME MANNER HE AND HIS RELATIVES ATTACKED THE GIANTIC MASTODONS SO FAR IN THE DISTANT PAST--



WITHIN MERE SECONDS, THE BATTLE IS ENDED AS QUICKLY AS IT BEGAN! ONE ALL-POWERFUL TUG AND THE GREAT GRIZZLY'S NECK SNAPS BACKWARD WITH A SICKENING CRACK!

EVEN THE MOST POWERFUL ANIMAL IN ALL NORTH AMERICA IS NO MATCH FOR ITS PRE-HISTORIC FOE!

THEN, FOR A MOMENT, THE HUNGER IS FORTOTTEN-- LOST SOMEWHERE IN THE DARKENED DEPTHS OF THE CAVE-MAN'S MIND--



WHILE HE BELLOWES OUT A BONE-CHILLING HOWL OF VICTORY!

BUT EVEN AS THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS CANNOT FOR LONG ASSUAGE THE PURPOSE OF THE CONQUEST--



--AS A BATTLE WON IS SOON FORGOTTEN IN THE SWEET TASTE OF CLEAN, FRESH MEAT SOOTHING THE PANGS OF A TOO-LONG ACHING STOMACH--

WHILE, NO MORE THAN TEN MILES AWAY, IN THE SMALL TOWN OF HARBRAVE--

LET ME SPEAK TO CHIEF FRAZIER, PLEASE! THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!



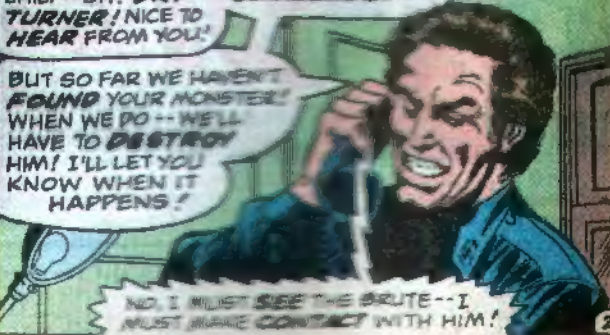
IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE I HEARD FROM HIM! MAYBE THEY'VE FOUND THE BRUTE-- PERHAPS KILLED HIM--

--AND THE CHIEF HASN'T THE NERVE TO TELL ME! I HAVE TO FIND OUT!

YES, THIS IS THE CHIEF-- OH! DR. TURNER! NICE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

NO-- I'M AFRAID THERE ISN'T ANY NEWS! WE HAVE THE FOREST SURROUNDED!

BUT SO FAR WE HAVEN'T FOUND YOUR MONSTER! WHEN WE DO-- WE'LL HAVE TO DESTROY HIM! I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN IT HAPPENS!



NO, I MUST SEE THE BRUTE-- I MUST MAKE CONTACT WITH HIM!

NOT A CHANCE! I'LL CALL YOU WHEN HE'S DEAD!

WHY DO I LET HER GET TO ME THAT WAY?! SHE HAS TO BE CRAZY!

THAT THING IS A MURDERER! AND IT'S MY JOB TO DESTROY IT! NO MATTER WHAT SHE THINKS!



SLAM!

STILL, I CAN SEE HER POINT. IF THERE WERE A WAY TO CAPTURE AND CONTROL IT--



--THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MUCH SCIENCE WOULD BENEFIT FROM IT!

BUT I CAN'T THINK THAT WAY! I'M A COP-- I HAVE TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE! THAT'S MY JOB!

CALLING ALL UNITS! THIS IS CHIEF FRAZIER!



ANY SIGN OF THE BRUTE YET? IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING--REPORT IN IMMEDIATELY!

AND MY ORDERS STILL STAND! IF YOU SEE IT--SHOOT ON SIGHT-- AND SHOOT TO KILL!

WE'RE DOING THE BEST WE CAN, CHIEF! BUT IT'S SO BLASTED DARK AND WET!

--IN THIS RAIN, IT LOOKS LIKE A QUESTION OF WHO'LL DROWN FIRST--US--OR THE BRUTE!

WE'LL KEEP YOU POSTED, THOUGH! OVER AND OUT!

WHILE ONLY A FEW HUNDRED YARDS AWAY, TEMPORARILY PROTECTED BY THE WEATHER AND THE FOREST--

--THE BRUTE CONTINUES HIS LONG-AWAITED FEAST--OBVIOUS TO THE EVER-PRESENT DANGER OF MODERN-DAY MAN WHICH SURROUNDS HIM!



UNTIL, SUDDENLY, HE IS BLINDED BY THE RAYS OF A POLICE SEARCHLIGHT--



--AND HE STAGGERS BACKWARD, AFRAID OF THE UNKNOWN, YET UNAWARE THAT CERTAIN DEATH AWAITS HIM WITHIN THE NEXT FEW, CRITICAL SECONDS---



WE'VE GOT HIM **SURROUNDED**, CHIEF! JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED YOUR **MIND**--

ABOUT **KILLING HIM! OVER!**

DAMMIT, YOU HAVE MY ORDERS! POUR EVERY ROUND YOU **HAVE** INTO IT! I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS I **CAN!** OVER AND OUT!



NO! I CAN'T DO IT! I MIGHT BE SETTING SCIENCE BACK A HUNDRED YEARS.

BUT WHAT IF THEY **DO** TAKE IT ALIVE-- AND IT **ESCAPES** AGAIN-- ONLY TO **MURDER** MORE **INNOCENT VICTIMS!**

LORD! I SWEAR-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! HOW CAN I BE SO TORN? WHY AM I SO TORN?!



PATERSON-- THIS IS THE CHIEF! I'VE CHANGED MY MIND!

DON'T KILL IT UNLESS YOU HAVE TO! REPEAT-- TAKE THE BRUTE ALIVE-- IF AT ALL POSSIBLE!

BUT CHIEF-- YOU SAID WE SHOULD--

NEVER MIND WHAT I SAID BEFORE! JUST CARRY OUT MY ORDERS! THAT'S ALL, SERGEANT!

ALMOST TOTALLY BLINDED BY THE GLARE OF THOUSANDS OF WATTS OF ELECTRIC LIGHT, THE BRUTE STAGGERS ABOUT HELPLESSLY, UNSURE OF HIS FATE-- YET SOMEHOW FIGHTING OFF THE CHOKING FINGERS OF DEADLY PANIC!



HOLD YOUR FIRE! THE CHIEF WANTS THIS BLASTED MONSTER ALIVE! **CLOSE IN -- BUT BE CAREFUL!**

THAT'S IT! KEEP IT STEADY, BOYS! WE'VE ALMOST GOT 'IM!



A FEW MORE STEPS-- THEN, WHEN I GIVE THE COMMAND, TOSS THE NET OVER 'IM!

BUT IF HE ENDANGERS ANY OF YOUR LIVES-- LET 'IM HAVE IT WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!

WHILE, BACK IN THE NOT
-SO-SLEEPY TOWN OF
HARGRAVE---



YES--YOU'VE
FOUND HIM!! BUT
WHAT ARE YOU GO-
ING TO DO WITH
HIM?!

PLEASE, CHIEF FRAZIER--
I BEG OF YOU--DON'T
LET YOUR MEN HARM
HIM!

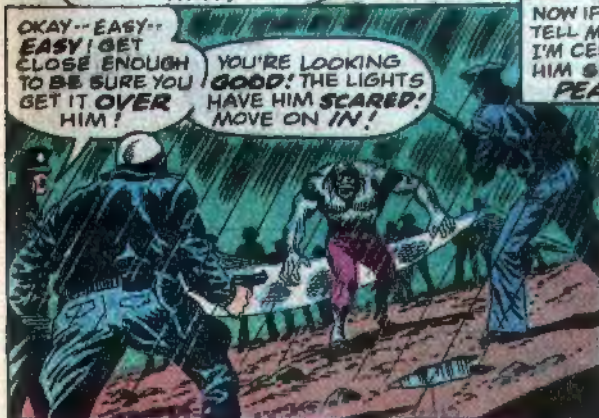
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY,
MISS TURNER! I'VE
GIVEN MY MEN ORDERS
TO TAKE HIM ALIVE
IF POSSIBLE--

--ALTHOUGH I'LL
BE DAMNED IF I
KNOW WHY!



OKAY--EASY--
EASY! GET
CLOSE ENOUGH
TO BE SURE YOU
GET IT OVER
HIM!

YOU'RE LOOKING
GOOD! THE LIGHTS
HAVE HIM SCARED!
MOVE ON IN!



THAT--THAT'S WONDERFUL!
I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH!



NOW IF YOU'LL JUST
TELL ME WHERE HE IS--
I'M CERTAIN I CAN MAKE
HIM SURRENDER
PEACEFULLY!



I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT! IF
NOT, GOD KNOWS HOW
MANY LIVES IT MIGHT COST!

--NOT TO MENTION MY JOB!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, SO
SIT TIGHT AND I'LL PICK YOU
UP IN A FEW MINUTES!



NOW!

AARRRRRHU!



GOT
HIM!!

RRAARRR!



JUST STAND BACK
AND LET HIM TIRE HIM-
SELF OUT! HE'LL NEVER
BREAK THAT NYLON
NETTING!

TO HELL WITH ORDERS!
THAT THING'S A MENACE!
TO ME AND MY FAMILY!



--AND IT'S NEVER
GONNA LEAVE THESE
WOODS ALIVE-- NOT
WHEN I PUT A BULLET
RIGHT BETWEEN ITS EYES!

BLAM!

UUNNOHH!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, McCORD?? DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND ENGLISH ANYMORE?

THE CHIEF WANTED THAT THING ALIVE--AND WE HAD IT! WHY IN HELL DID YOU SHOOT?

THAT'S NO EXCUSE! I'M NOT BUYING IT-- AND NEITHER WILL CHIEF FRAZIER!

GIVE ME THAT GUN AND GET BACK TO ONE OF THE CARS! I'LL LET THE CHIEF DEAL WITH YOU!

MEANWHILE, YOU'D BETTER PRAY YOUR SHOT WAS OFF TARGET!

I--I DON'T KNOW! I GUESS I---WELL, I PANICKED!

DAMN! THE BUM NEVER AIMED THIS WELL ON THE PRACTICE RANGE!

A SQUARE HIT-- SMACK BETWEEN THE EYES! NO NEED TO TAKE IT'S PULSE!

NOTHING ON EARTH COULD LIVE AFTER A SHOT LIKE THAT!

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING MY POINT OF VIEW, CHIEF!

I ONLY PREY WE AREN'T TOO LATE! IF WE ARE, THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY OF ALL TIME WILL BE LOST!

YEAH! EITHER THAT--OR GOD KNOWS HOW MANY GOOD COPS THAT THING HAS KILLED!

BUT MINUTES LATER...

WHAT IN HELL WENT **WRONG?**
WHY WAS HE **SHOT?**

WHY,
LORD,
WHY!

I DON'T KNOW,
SIR! WE HAD HIM
RESTRAINED IN
IN THE NET!

THEN FOR SOME
REASON, MCCORD
FIRED! THAT'S
ABOUT IT!

WAIT! HIS EYES
--THEY'RE **OPENING!**
H--HE'S STILL **ALIVE!**

WHATT!
THAT'S **IMPOSSIBLE**
--WITH A BULLET
LODGED IN HIS
BRAIN!

IT'S **TRUE**,
CHIEF! HIS
HEART IS
BEATING
--PULSE
IS **STRONG!**

I DON'T KNOW
HOW--BUT IN SOME
WAY, THE THING HAS
SURVIVED!

--AT LEAST
--FOR
NOW!!

IT'S A **MIRACLE** -- PERHAPS AN **OMEN**-- A
SIGN HE WAS **MEANT** TO LIVE--TO BE **STUDIED!**

PLEASE--CALL AN
AMBULANCE! IF HE
LIVES--WE
STILL HAVE
ALL THE
HOPE IN
THE
WORLD!

OKAY--CALL THE **EMERGENCY**
BUS! TELL 'IM TO GET OUT
HERE ON THE **DOUBLE!**

OOHHH!
THANK YOU!

AND YOU'LL BE
PART OF THE GREAT-
EST SCIENTIFIC RE-
SEARCH PROJECT
IN **HISTORY!**

I KNOW I LET YOU
DOWN ONCE **BE-
FORE**--BUT IF
HE **SURVIVES**
IT WON'T HAPPEN
AGAIN!

THAT THING'S OUT LIKE A
LIGHT AGAIN-- AND WITH A
HOLE THAT SIZE IN IT'S
SKULL--

...I WOULDN'T BET A
BEER THAT IT'LL BE
BREATHIN' BY THE
TIME WE GET IT TO
THE **HOSPITAL!**

SURE--BUT DON'T
COUNT YOUR **PULITZER**
PRIZES BEFORE THEY'RE
HATCHER!

BUT IF CHIEF FRAZIER HAD BEEN A BETTING MAN, HE'D HAVE BEEN A LOSER! FOR, THREE DAYS LATER IN HARGRAVE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT-- A BULLET LODGED SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF ITS BRAIN--

--AND YET ALL VITAL SIGNS ARE STABLE!

WHAT'S KEEPING IT ALIVE?! IT SHOULD'VE CASHED IN THE MINUTE THE BULLET HIT IT!

WHO CAN SAY, CHIEF?! ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT HE IS ALIVE-- AND THAT TOMORROW, THE BEST BRAIN SURGEON IN THE WORLD IS GOING TO OPERATE ON HIM!

IF SO, WE MAY UNLOCK SECRETS OF THE MIND WHICH HAVE BAFFLED US FOR YEARS!

IF WHATEVER BRAIN THIS CREATURE HAS CAN BE RESTORED OR PERHAPS EVEN IMPROVED--

THEN, THE FOLLOWING DAY...

THIS HAS TO BE THE MOST INCREDIBLE CHALLENGE I'VE EVER FACED!

IMAGINE-- A PRIMITIVE CREATURE WITH A FOREHEAD SO THICK THAT IT STOPPED A FATAL SHOT FROM A POLICE SERVICE WEAPON-- AT CLOSE RANGE!

I ONLY HOPE OUR SURGICAL TOOLS ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO PENETRATE IT!

--WELL, NEEDLESS TO SAY, OUR POSSIBILITIES ARE LIMITLESS! SO WE MAY AS WELL BEGIN-- BEFORE THE CHALLENGE OF IT ALL TURNS MY HANDS TO PUTTY.

BUT AS THE DOCTOR MAKES HIS FIRST, FATEFUL INCISION, WHAT OF THE SEDATED THOUGHTS OF THE BRUTE? DOES HE THINK AT ALL? DO DIM THOUGHTS OF HIS ANCIENT PAST BREAK THROUGH THE MIDST OF HIS COMMA-RIDDEN BRAIN? AND IF SO, TO WHAT PARTICULAR EVENT OR EVENTS DO THEY TURN-- PERHAPS TO A TIME OF GREAT CRISES, NOT UNLIKE THAT WHICH FACES HIM NOW, THOUGH UNDER LESS CONTROLLED CIRCUMSTANCES!



A TIME WHEN HE GLADLY RISKED HIS LIFE DAILY FOR THE BASIC REWARDS WITH WHICH THE WILDERNESS COULD PROVIDE HIM --



THE SURGEON'S KNIFE CUTS CLEAN AND STRAIGHT, BUT THE BRUTE KNOWS **NOTHING** OF THAT -- INSTEAD, HIS PRIMITIVE BRAIN FIDES BACK TO THE DAWN OF TIME -- REMEMBERING THE WRETCHED LIFE HE LONG AGO LIVED!

--NOR WOULD THE WOMAN OR BOY-CHILD WHO WERE THEN HIS FAMILY!



IN THOSE TIMES, THERE WAS SOMETHING FOR WHICH TO LIVE -- OR DIE IF NECESSARY! AND THE BRUTE WAS WILLING TO DO EITHER, AS WAS EVERY OTHER MAN OF HIS PRIMORDIAL ERA!

HE FOUGHT BRAVELY, BUT THE ANIMALS WERE STRONGER AND OUTNUMBERED HIM!

THEN WHEN HE AWOKE, THE BITTER DRESS OF DEFEAT WERE BUT THE TASTE OF ROTTEN ROOT AS COMPARED TO THE PERSONAL LOSS INFLICTED ON HIM!



THESE, PERHAPS, ARE HIS THOUGHTS AS THE SURGERY ON HIM THOUSANDS OF YEARS LATER IS COMPLETED -- AND HE IS SENT TO THE RECOVERY ROOM!



BUT OTHER MEN DID NOT PRESENT DANGER TO HIM THAT DAY, WHILE THE FAR LESS-DEVELOPED APES DID!

--AND THE TIME INEVITABLY CAME WHEN THE MAN-APES ATTACKED HIS CAVE!

DOCTOR-- IS IT-- OVER? DID HE--?

HE'S ALIVE MISS TURNER! THE OPERATION WAS VERY COMPLICATED!

BUT HE HAS AN INCREDIBLE RESISTANCE TO DEATH -- AND THAT COULD PULL HIM THROUGH!



STILL, I'M AFRAID HIS ULTIMATE SURVIVAL IS AN OUTSIDE CHANCE AT THE VERY BEST!

MEANWHILE, AS THE BRUTE'S LIFE HANGS IN THE BALANCE...



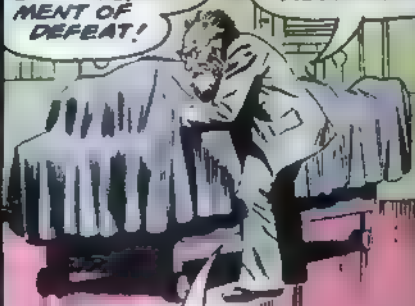
THE FOOLS! WHY WOULDN'T THEY LISTEN TO ME --OR AT LEAST GIVE ME A CHANCE TO CORRECT MY ERROR!

1, DOCTOR ROLF HENDRICK-- HANDED THEM THE GREATEST WEAPON EVER CREATED BY MAN--

--AND, THE IDIOTS THAT THEY ARE, THEY REFUSED IT!

THE UNITED STATES DEFENSE DEPARTMENT! HAH! A MORE APT TITLE WOULD BE THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFEAT!

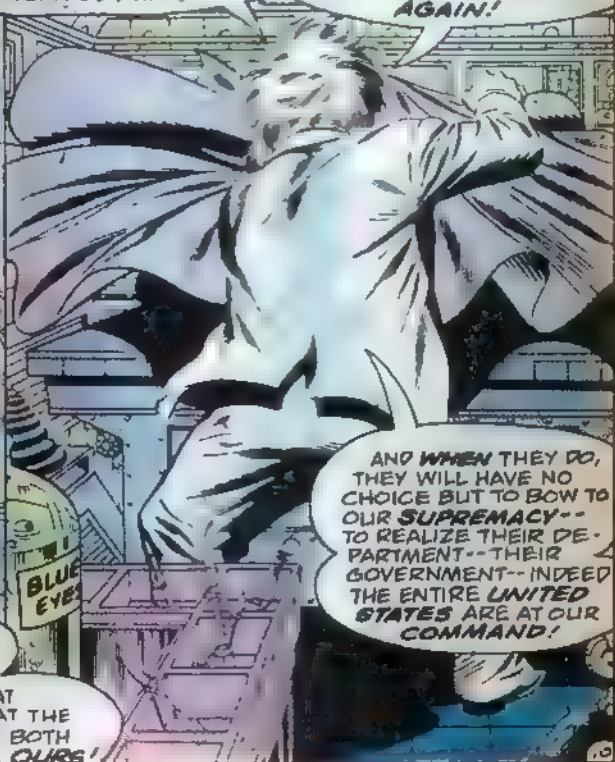
YEARS I SPENT ON THIS PROJECT FOR THEM--YEARS! AND WHAT IS MY FINAL REWARD!?



REJECTION! TOTAL--UNEQUIVOCAL REJECTION!

ONE TINY MALFUNCTION! THAT WAS ALL THEY NEEDED TO TURN US AWAY!

BUT WHEN THAT MALFUNCTION IS CORRECTED--AH, THEN THEY WILL SEE US AGAIN!



BUT I SAY TO YOU-- I WILL NOT ACCEPT THEIR VERDICT! YOUR POTENTIAL IS FAR TOO GREAT!

NO! FOR YOU, IT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING! YOU WILL NOT BE DOOMED TO OBSCURITY ON MY ACCOUNT!

YOU REPRESENT MY LIFE'S WORK--MY LEGACY! AND I SWEAR BY ALL THAT I HOLD HOLY THAT THE RECOGNITION WE BOTH DESERVE WILL BE OURS!

AND WHEN THEY DO, THEY WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BOW TO OUR SUPREMACY-- TO REALIZE THEIR DEPARTMENT--THEIR GOVERNMENT--INDEED THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES ARE AT OUR COMMAND!

CONFUSED? WELL, DON'T FEEL ~~FEARED~~ OUT JUST STICK WITH US WHILE WE WHISK FORWARD IN TIME ANOTHER WEEK --AND ALL SHALL BE MADE CLEAR-- WE HOPE!

HIS-- HIS EYES-- THEY'RE OPENING!

I NOTICED!

WHY DO YOU THINK MY HAND'S ON MY REVOLVER?

THERE'S NO NEED FOR ALARM, CHIEF-- AT LEAST NOT YET!

DOES THIS MEAN-- HE'S GOING TO LIVE, DOCTOR? DOES IT?

YOU SEE, HIS BRAIN DAMAGE WAS SO EXTENSIVE-- WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING HOW THE SHOCK OF CONSCIOUSNESS WILL AFFECT HIM!

WELL, IT'S CERTAINLY A GOOD SIGN! BUT IT WILL BE A FEW HOURS BEFORE WE KNOW FOR SURE!

THERE NOW! PLEASE TRY TO RELAX-- I'M NOT GOING TO HARM YOU!

REMEMBER ME-- I'M YOUR FRIEND! I WANT TO HELP YOU!

NO! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR POLICE-MAN'S MENTALITY!

CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S FRIGHTENED! I HAVE TO CALM HIM!

AND NO ONE IS GOING TO STOP ME!

WATCH IT, HE'S JUST AS SAV- AGE AS BEFORE!

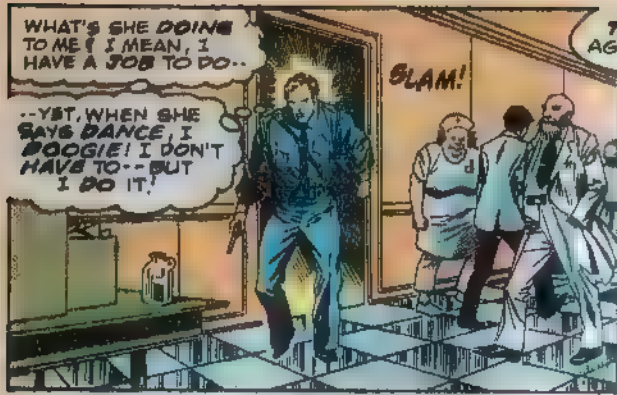
GET BACK! I WANT BOTH OF YOU OUT OF HERE!

DOCTOR, I WANT THIS MAN OUT OF HERE! HE'S A DISTURBING INFLUENCE ON YOUR PATIENT!

IF HE CONTINUES WAVING HIS GUN AND SHOUTING-- IT COULD AROUSE THE BEAST TO ESCAPE!

OKAY--OKAY! BUT I'LL BE RIGHT OUTSIDE, LADY-- JUST IN CASE YOUR BOYFRIEND THERE DECIDES HE DOESN'T LIKE BLONDES-- AND TRIES TO BREAK YOUR PRETTY NECK!

WOMAN--SHEEE! WHY DON'T YOU ASK IT IF IT WANTS BACON WITH ITS EGGS WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!



WHAT'S SHE DOING TO ME? I MEAN, I HAVE A JOB TO DO...

SLAM!

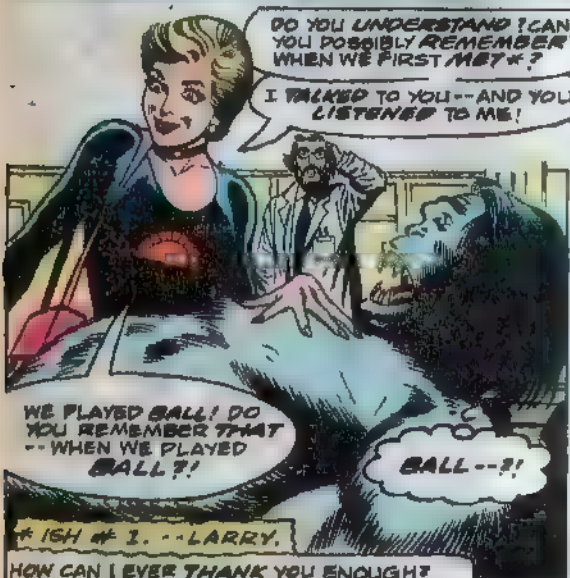
--YET, WHEN SHE SAYS DANCE, I BOOGIE! I DON'T HAVE TO-- BUT I DO IT!

THERE NOW! HE WON'T BOTHER YOU AGAIN! NO ONE WILL BOTHER YOU ANYMORE--



--BECAUSE I'M YOUR FRIEND! DO YOU UNDERSTAND? FRIEND... FRIEND!

FRIEND--?

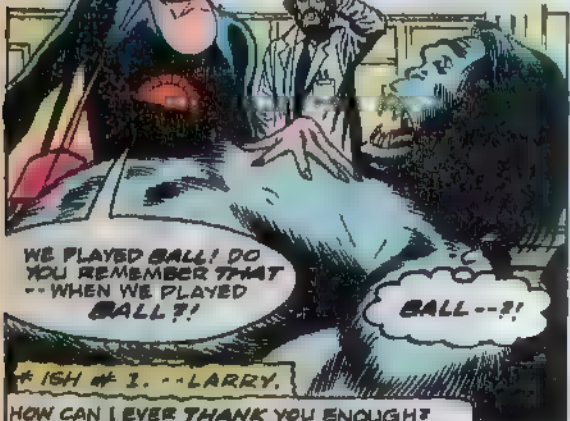


DO YOU UNDERSTAND? CAN YOU POSSIBLY REMEMBER? WHEN WE FIRST MET*?

I TALKED TO YOU--AND YOU LISTENED TO ME!

HERE--REMEMBER THIS--HOW WE PLAYED WITH IT?--HOW MUCH YOU LIKED IT?!

YOU DO REMEMBER! I CAN TELL BY THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE!



WE PLAYED BALL! DO YOU REMEMBER THAT--WHEN WE PLAYED BALL?!

BALL--?!



BALL!!

DOCTOR, DO YOU REALIZE WHAT A BREAK-THROUGH THIS IS? HE REMEMBERS THE BALL!-- THAT MEANS YOU'VE REPAIRED THE BRAIN DAMAGE!



* IGH # 1. --LARRY.

HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU ENOUGH? YOU'VE SAVED HIM!--AND MORE IMPORTANT--YOU'VE SAVED HIS MIND!

NOW I CAN CONTINUE MY EXPERIMENTS--I CAN TRY TO EDUCATE HIM!

WELL, I--ER--

YOU'LL BE PART OF ONE OF THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS IN HISTORY!



BALL!

OOOH--HH!

LOOK OUT! THE THING IS LOOSE!



WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON IN-- I KNEW IT!

GET OUT OF THE WAY SO I CAN GET A SHOT AT IT!

BALL!



NOOOO! YOU CANT!

GET OUT OF MY WAY! CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S ESCAPING!

BEFORE IT KILLS SOME-BODY ELSE!



WAIT! YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME! HE WAS ONLY CHASING--

YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH ONCE MORE--AND YOU'LL BE BEHIND BARS FOR OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE!

FROM NOW ON, I'M IN CHARGE--AND I'VE GOT TO KILL THAT THING--



WELL, THAT'S ONE BREAK FOR ME!

THE DAMNED THING IS SITTING THERE PLAYING WITH A BALL!

HE'S A SITTING DUCK--AND I'VE NEVER MISSED ONE IN THE POND YET!

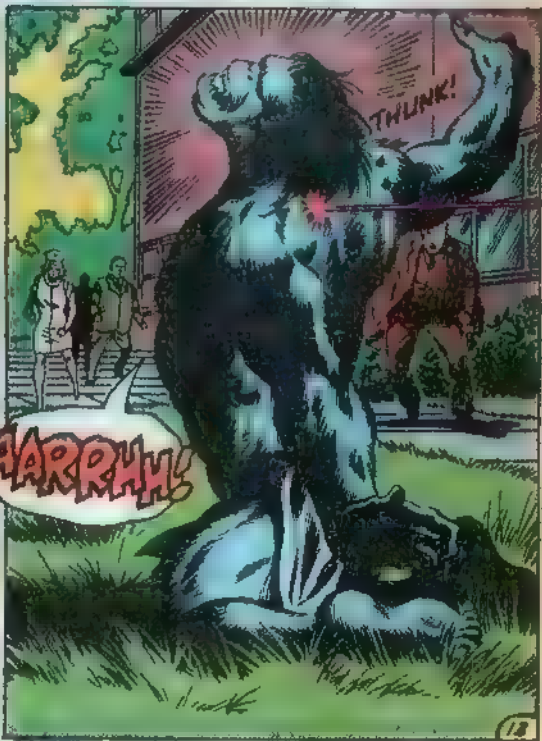


GOT HIM DEAD IN MY SIGHTS-- AND WHEN I SQUEEZE THIS ONE OFF-- THAT'LL BE THE END OF THIS WHOLE ROTTEN MESS!

KRAK!

PLEASE! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

WRITE ME A LETTER-- AFTER THAT THING IS DEAD AND BURIED!



AARRRH!

THUNK!

YOU MORON--YOU BLIND, SIMPLE
PIG! YOU'VE KILLED HIM--

OH--I WANT TO KILL YOU!
GOD HELP ME--I WANT TO
MURDER YOU!

YOU BEAST! YOU--YOU'RE
TWICE THE MONSTER
THAT POOR HELPLESS
THING COULD EVER
BE!

AND NOW YOU'VE
DESTROYED IT--
JUST WHEN I WAS
BEGINNING TO
MAKE CONTACT
WITH IT!

TRY DOING IT
LATER, HONEY!
RIGHT NOW I
HAVEN'T TIME
FOR YOU TO
BEAT ME TO
DEATH!

ITS ONLY THOUGHT IS TO RUN--
RUN FOR SURVIVAL, BUT ONLY
AFTER IT CAN RETRIEVE
THE ONE OBJECT WITH
WHICH IT IS FAMILIAR--

I'LL SEND
FLOWERS TO HIS
FUNERAL--AFTER
I'M SURE HE'S DEAD!

WHILE ON THE STREET
TWO STORIES BELOW,
A PAIN-WRACKED, BE-
WILDERED CREATURE
CAST INTO A WORLD HE
CANNOT COMPREHEND
SCANS THE UNFAMILIAR
SURROUNDINGS IN
CONFUSION--

BALL!

THERE HE IS!
THE DAMNED
THING'S STILL
ALIVE!

BUT
NOT FOR
LONG!

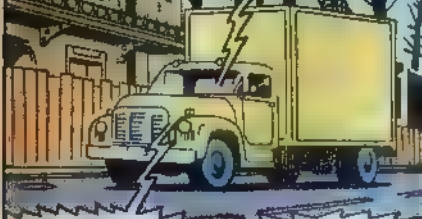
CALLING ALL UNITS! THIS IS THE
CHIEF! THE BRUTE IS ON THE LOOSE
AGAIN! CORDON OFF AN AREA TEN
BLOCKS SQUARE AROUND THE
HOSPITAL! AND THIS TIME--
THERE'LL BE NO CHANGE OF
ORDERS! THIS TIME WHEN I
SAY SHOOT TO KILL--THAT'S
EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN!
OVER AND OUT!

MISSED! HOW CAN
ANYTHING THAT BIG
MOVE SO BLASTED
FAST?!

HAVE TO KEEP TIGHT ON
ITS TRAIL! BUT I'D BETTER
RADIO FOR HELP FIRST!

WHILE, AT THAT SAME MOMENT, ONLY A FEW BLOCKS AWAY--

WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM WITH A NEWS FLASH!



THE MURDER-
OUS CREATURE
KNOWN AS THE
BRUTE HAS
ESCAPED
FROM CITY
HOSPITAL!

ALL CITIZENS ARE
URGED TO STAY
INSIDE AND TAKE
NECESSARY
PRECAUTIONS
UNTIL THE MONS-
TER IS APPREHENDED!

SO, AT LAST MY OPPORTUNITY
ARRIVES! I KNEW IT WOULD
COME TO THIS!

WHAT THE POLICE
AND DEFENSE DEPT.'S
CANNOT STOP--
WE WILL!



WE'VE ONLY TO
FIND THIS BRUTE--
AND DESTROY IT,
EH?! THEN THE
WHOLE WORLD
WILL TAKE
NOTICE!

AND, BACK AT THE HOSPITAL--

CHIEF! THE
BRUTE--
DID YOU--

GET OUTTA MY HAIR--OR SO HELP
ME I'LL HAVE YOU LOCKED UP!

THEN YOU DIDN'T KILL
HIM-- HE'S STILL ALIVE!?

YES--HE'S
STILL BREATH-
ING--BUT NOT
FOR LONG!

--AND THIS TIME
THERE'S NOTH-
ING IN THOSE
PRETTY BLUE
EYES OF YOURS
THAT WILL KEEP
ME FROM FIN-
ISHING HIM!



I UNDERSTAND!
YOU HAVE TO DO
YOUR JOB! BUT
CAN I AT LEAST
GO ALONG
WITH YOU?!



BUT THAT QUESTION WILL BE
ANSWERED LATER! FOR, AS
THE MASSIVE MANHUNT
GETS INTO FULL SWING!

--THE PRIMITIVE BEING
KNOWN AS THE BRUTE
SENSES DANGER!
AND, LACKING HIS
CUSTOMARY CAVE
FOR SANCTUARY, HE
USES THE NEXT
BEST THING!



THEN, ON REACHING THE
GIGANTIC TREE'S SUM-
MIT, HE LEANS BACK AND
WATCHES HIS FOES AS
THEY STALK HIM BELOW.
--CLUTCHING THE ONE
OBJECT HE KNOWS IN
THIS ALIEN WORLD AND
LAUGHING AT THE
FUTILITY OF HIS HUNTERS



THEN, AT MORNING...

WELL, AT LEAST SHE'S
FINALLY SLEEPING!
NOW IF WE FIND THE
BRUTE--

MAYBE IT'LL BE
OVER BEFORE SHE
WAKES UP!



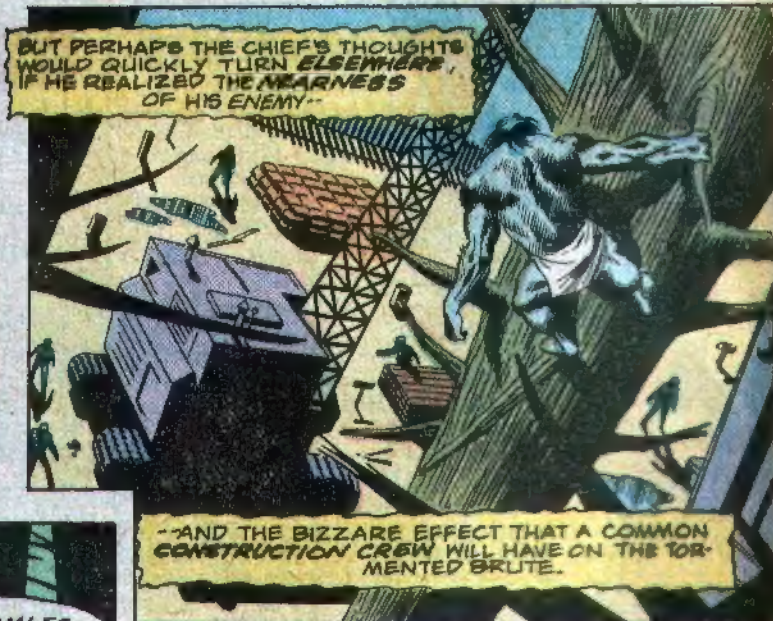
I SHOULD'VE
SENT HER HOME
INSTEAD OF LET-
TING HER COME
WITH ME!

BUT I
COULDN'T!
SHE'S SO
WRAPPED UP
IN THAT
CREATURE!



--AND I GUESS IF
I ADMITTED IT--I'M
GETTING PRETTY
INVOLVED WITH
HER!

FACE
IT, FRAZ-
IER--SHE'S
GOT YOU
HOOKED--
LIKE IT OR
NOT!



BUT PERHAPS THE CHIEF'S THOUGHTS
WOULD QUICKLY TURN ELSEWHERE,
IF HE REALIZED THE NEARNESS
OF HIS ENEMY--

--AND THE BIZZARE EFFECT THAT A COMMON
CONSTRUCTION CREW WILL HAVE ON THE TOR-
MENTED BRUTE.



BALL!

OKAY SAM! EG-
CAPED BEASTOR
NO, THIS HOUSE'S
GOT TO COME
DOWN TODAY!

GET THE HEAD-
ACHE BALL
SWINSING!



BALL!

THAT'S
HIM! THAT'S
THE BRUTE!

I AIN'T
GETTIN'
PAID TO
TANGEL WIT
THAT! LEMME
OUTTA HERE!



ALL UNITS! ALL UNITS!
BRUTE ATTACKING CON-
STRUCTION SIGHT--COR-
NER OF OAK AND MAIN!
OVER AND OUT!

WHA...

GO BACK TO
SLEEP! UNION
RALLIES ARE
NO PLACE FOR
LADIES!



THERE IT IS! WHERE
THE HELL ARE THE
SHARPSHOOTERS!

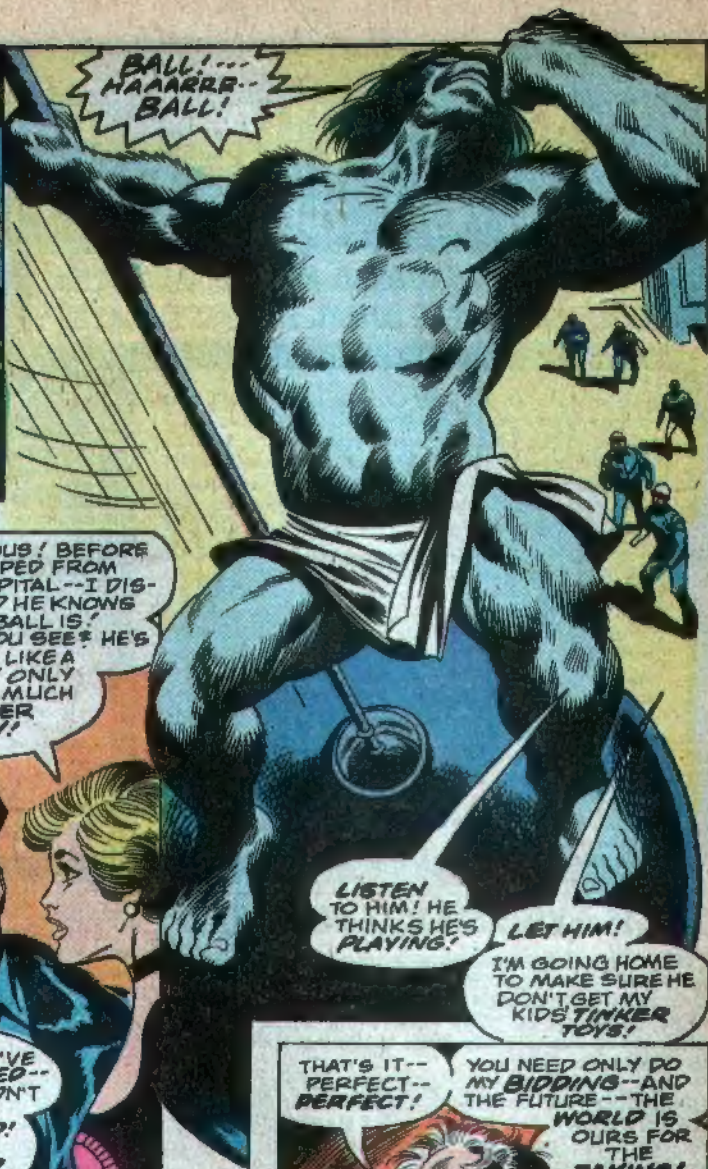
WE'LL NEED DEER
RIFLES TO BRING
HIM DOWN FROM
UP THERE!

NO! WILL YOU
JUST LISTEN TO
ME! THE POOR
CREATURE'S ONLY
PLAYING A GAME
-- A GAME
I TAUGHT
IT!



I'M SERIOUS! BEFORE
HE ESCAPED FROM
THE HOSPITAL--I DIS-
COVERED HE KNOWS
WHAT A BALL IS!
DON'T YOU SEE? HE'S
PLAYING LIKE A
CHILD! ONLY
WITH A MUCH
LARGER
TOY!

OKAY-- I'VE
LISTENED--
BUT I DIDN'T
HEAR A
WORD!
NOW
STAND
BACK!

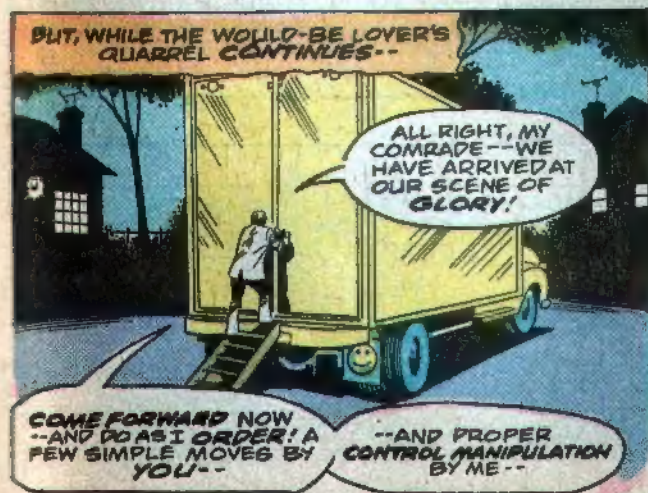


BALL!...
HAAARRR--
BALL!

LISTEN
TO HIM! HE
THINKS HE'S
PLAYING!

LET HIM!

I'M GOING HOME
TO MAKE SURE HE
DON'T GET MY
KIDS TINKER
TOYS!



BUT, WHILE THE WOULD-BE LOVER'S
QUARREL CONTINUES--

ALL RIGHT, MY
COMRADE--WE
HAVE ARRIVED AT
OUR SCENE OF
GLORY!

COME FORWARD NOW
--AND DO AS I ORDER! A
FEW SIMPLE MOVES BY
YOU--

--AND PROPER
CONTROL MANIPULATION
BY ME--



THAT'S IT--
PERFECT--
PERFECT!

YOU NEED ONLY DO
MY BIDDING--AND
THE FUTURE--THE
WORLD IS
OURS FOR
THE TAKING!

NOW GO FORTH!
DESTROY
THE
BRUTE!



LOOK, I'M SORRY
--I REALLY AM!
BUT DON'T YOU
SEE I HAVE NO
CHOICE? I HAVE
TO PROTECT THE
PUBLIC!

--AND THE ONLY WAY
TO DO THAT IS TO
KILL THE MONSTER!

OH, WHY THE HELL
AM I APOLOGIZING
TO YOU? GET READY,
MEN!



HOLD YOUR
FIRE!
I CAN
HAUNT YOUR
ENEMY-- AND
THERE WILL
BE NO RISK
TO YOUR
LIVES!

I ASK ONLY THE
OPPORTUNITY TO
SAVE
LIVES!

YOU CANNOT
STOP ME--AS
YOU WILL SOON
LEARN!

BE WISE--
LEAVE THIS TASK
TO A BEING SUP-
ERIOR TO YOU!
A BEING WITHOUT
HUMAN FRAILTIES!

WHOOOSSHH!!



WHAT IN HELL DO YOU
THINK THIS IS--
HALLOWE'EN?

GET OUT OF HERE
--AND QUICK!

YOU'RE
IN OUR LINE
OF FIRE!

C'MON,
MOVE IT!

I WAS AFRAID OF THIS--
BUT NO SMALL TOWN
MARSHALL CAN STOP
US NOW!

A SIMPLE AD-
JUSTMENT HERE
ON THE CONTROL
CALCULATOR--AND
THE OFFICER WILL
CEASE TO BE A
PROBLEM TO US!



BALL--
MY BALL!

NO, YOU POOR,
IGNORANT BRUTE! THE BALL
IS MINE-- AS ALL ELSE UPON
THIS EARTH WILL BE!

SHOULD WE FIRE AT BOTH OF 'EM CHIEF!

NO! HOLD YOUR FIRE! LET'S SEE WHAT HE'S UP TO!

IF HE CAN FLY--MAYBE HE CAN HANDLE THE BRUTE AS WELL!

KARRRRR!

PITEOUS CREATURE! THOUGH YOUR STRENGTH IS BEYOND A NORMAL HUMAN'S--

--IT IS USELESS AGAINST POWER SUCH AS MINE!

I PITY YOU! BUT THAT IS OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE I MUST OBEY THE ELECTRONIC IMPULSES OF MY MASTER!

--IMPULSES THAT TELL ME YOU MUST BE DESTROYED! SO-- FAREWELL!

STOP HIM! WHO-EVER-WHATEVER HE IS, STOP HIM!

WHICH ONE? THE THROWBACK TO THE STONE AGE--OR THE ONE WHO WEARS A MASK AND FLIES!

BABY, ALL I CAN DO IS LIGHT A CANDLE AND WAIT FOR THIS NIGHTMARE TO END!

EEEEYAAA!

YOU'RE FINISHED, MY FOE! DIE GALLANTLY!

DON'T LOOK, ANN! IT'S ALL OVER NOW!

WELL, WHAT SAY YOU! WILL YOU DO MY BIDDING--OR MUST I ALSO DESTROY YOU?

OH NO! WE EXCHANGED ONE MENACE ONLY TO GET ANOTHER!

THERE, OFFICERS OF THE LAW! I HAVE DONE YOUR JOB FOR YOU! AND I DEMAND COMPENSATION!

**NEXT. CALL HIM
ISSUE • DOOMSTALKER**